



SEIUHealthcare®
United for Quality Care

February 23, 2022
Eva Fal, Dietary Aide
New Britain
District 1199NE

Before the Appropriations Committee

Good Afternoon Senator Osten, Representative Walker, and Members of the Committee, my name is Eva Fal. I have worked at Newington Rapid Recovery as a Dietary Aide for over 25 years. We are so short staffed that schedules cannot be filled because there are not enough workers. We recently suffered a Lay-off due to Covid and the facility's low census, but with new residents coming, the Company has not increased the amount of workers allotted.

Before the layoff we would have 1 Cook and 4 Dietary Aides per shift. After the layoff we are only allowed 1 Cook and 3 Dietary Aides. However, some days we are so short staffed that there is only 1 Cook and 1 Dietary Aide. On more than one occasion there was only 1 Cook and NO Dietary Aides. It is unmanageable. The cooks are having to do their work and the work of Dietary Aides at the same time.

There are so many holes in the schedule and Dietary workers may be occasionally compensated for picking up shifts or staying late. Other departments are regularly offered bonuses or receive gift cards, but not us. I have worked 14 days straight with no compensation or appreciation.

With no staff the whole process is delayed and meals are being delivered late. We are having to constantly break the food tray line to deliver the meal trucks to the floors, which halts the preparation of the next meal trucks food trays. The residents are the ones who are suffering. Their meals are being delivered late. Do you know what happens when a Diabetic resident gets their food late? Their sugar bottoms out, which could be a critical emergency.

We need your help. Last year you stepped up to the plate and allocated much needed funding for wages and benefits. That was a wonderful first step. But our industry has been left behind for so many years, we need more to catch up. Please do what's right. Help build a new path for today and for all of our futures.

Thank you for your time.